

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified U.S. application as follows:

In The Specification

Please amend the portions of the specification as indicated by the following marked up versions thereof:

(6) ~~al2101~~ Please substitute the sixth full paragraph on page 3, lines ~~28~~-32, through page 4, lines 1-14, with the following:

The cylindrical metal sheath 3, is welded to a plate 4 integral with the under tundish 2. The outlet sleeve 5 through the hole crosses the plate 4 and the upper walls 7 of the under tundish 2. The outlet sleeve 5 has a ring shaped protrusion 8 around its upper extremity. On the protrusion 8 act the means for pushing the outlet sleeve upwards and holding it vertically, comprising a helical spring 9, or equivalent elastic means, a metallic beaker 10, having internally a metallic ring shaped support 11 which holds a ring 12 of refractory material into which the ~~nozzle~~ ~~outlet sleeve~~ 5 is inserted. The spring 9 reacting against the plate 4 acts on the beaker 10, pushing the latter upwards and thus also the ~~nozzle~~ ~~outlet sleeve~~ 5. A structure for centring the spring 9 and the beaker 10 can be envisaged. In the case in the figure it is represented by a metal cylinder 13, surrounded by the spring 9, and around which runs the beaker 10. A tube 14 of refractory material is fixed to it with a spacer of refractory material adequate 24, for the protection of the spring 9 and the cylinder 13 from heat. The outlet sleeve 5 can run in the tube 14, pushed by the spring 9. Preferably spring 9 and cylinder 13 are coaxial to the outlet sleeve 5. The beaker 10 can run on the cylinder 13.